

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 DOE-11 ACDA-12 NASA-01 SOE-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9693

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00619

FOR NSC:HUBERMAN

DOD/OSD/SLOCOMB

NASA:TERRELL

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: NMUC, ASEC, TSPA, PARM, UR

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON COSMOS 954 FOLLOW-ON AT
UN OUTERSPACE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY: AS OTHER DELEGATIONS MOBILIZE DEMARCHE ON
SOVIETS TO URGE ACCEPTANCE OF CREATION OF TECHNICAL STUDY
GROUP, SOVDEL STARTS ASKING USDEL HOW SUCH GROUP
MIGHT BE CONSTITUTED. USSR ABANDONMENT OF NEGATIVE
POSITION ON NUCLEAR POWERED SATELLITE STUDY NOW APPEARS
POSSIBLE.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF BILATERAL CONSULTATION, FEBRUARY 21,
REQUESTED BY SOVDEL TO DISCUSS POSITIONS ON GEOSYNCRONAUS
ORBIT (REPORTED SEPTTEL) SOVDEL ASKED IN PASSING HOW USDEL
THINKS TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES
IN SATELLITES, IF CREATED, MIGHT BE STRUCTURED. WE STATED
WE COULD ENVISION EITHER TECHNICAL WG UNDER THE S AND
TSC OR A SPECIAL AD HOC PANEL OF EXPERTS, APPOINTED BY
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STATES, TO PREPARE A STUDY FOR NEXT YEAR'S SESSION OF S
AND T. USDEL EXPLAINED LACK OF INTEREST FOR SECRETARIAT
STUDY BECAUSE SECRETARIAT HAS TOO LIMITED A RESOURCES
BASE, AND NO WISH FOR WG UNDER OSC BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE
TOO BROAD A POTENTIAL OF DISCUSSION, POSSIBLY INCLUDING
LEGAL AND POLICY ISSUES AT THE OUTSET, WHEN WE BELIEVE
ACCURATE FACTUAL DESCRIPTION OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS SHOULD

BE FOCUS OF THE WORK. (WE DID NOT MENTION PROCEDURAL PROBLEM OF GETTING ASSEMBLY APPROVAL OF FUNDS FOR LATTER TWO OPTIONS).

3. IN SEVERAL COMMENTS FROM CANADIAN AND JAPANESE DELS, USDEL HAS LEARNED THAT QUOTE CORE GROUP UNQUOTE OF CONSCIOUSLY NOT INCLUDING US, URGING THE SOVDEL TO ACCEPT DECISION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP BEFORE THE END OF THIS SESSION. SWEDEN HAS ALREADY VOLUNTEERED IN CAUCUSES TO HELP FINANCE STUDY IF OTHER NATIONS PARTICIPATING WILL SHARE COSTS.

4. SOVDEL IS COUNTING HEADS AND ACKNOWLEDGES LIKELY ISOLATION OF COMMUNIST GROUP IF THEY PERSIST IN NEGATIVE LINE. THEY STILL FAVOR A BILATERAL DISCUSSION BUT BOTH JAPAN AND CANADA HAVE URGED USDEL TO KEEP PRESSURE ON FOR MULTILATERAL STUDY, NOTING THAT EXCLUSIVELY BILATERAL APPROACH WILL SUGGEST COLLUSION AND GENERATE SUSPICION AND FEAR AMONG ALLIES AND IN THIRD WORLD.

5. COMMENT: SOVDEL APPEARS TO BE AT LEAST TAKING THE MEASURE OF THE COST OF CONCEDING NEED FOR MULTILATERAL STUDY GROUP. DEMARCHE COULD PUSH THEM TO ACCEPT EXCLUSIVELY TECHNICAL GROUP. IF USDEL COULD EITHER OFFER TO HOST MEETING IN FALL 1978 OR AGREE TO SHARE ADMIN COSTS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING (POSSIBLY UP TO DOLS 20,000 PER COUNTRY) WE COULD ELIMINATE SOVDEL RECOURSE TO PROCEDURAL ARGUMENTS TO BLOCK STUDY ON GROUNDS OF LACK OF FUNDS, TAKE INITIATIVE HERE TO REINFORCE IMPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO BE FORTHCOMING AND HELPFUL ON THIS TOPIC, AND GAIN ADVANTAGE OF MEETING AT HOME. ONE HOSTING ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE TO PRIVATELY SUGGEST AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT OFFER TO HOST IN VIENNA ON SHARED COST BASIS. DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS REQUESTED ASAP. YOUNG

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